

Benton School District Meeting - 2020

School Warrant
State of New Hampshire
March 10, 2020

The meeting opened at 7:04 PM.

Article 1

To choose a Moderator for the ensuing year.

Gilbert W. Richardson was elected by voice vote.

Article 2

To choose a School Clerk for the ensuing year.

Michael P. Stiebitz was elected by voice vote.

Article 3

To choose one School Board Member for a term of three years expiring in 2023.

Joe Boutin III was elected by voice vote.

Article 4

To choose a Treasurer for the ensuing year.

Penny Chicoine was elected by voice vote.

Article 5

To hear reports of Agents, Committees, or Officers chosen and pass any vote relating thereto.

Motion made to accept article as written, seconded.

The article then passed unanimously on voice vote.

Article 6

To see if the school district will vote to raise and appropriate Six Hundred Eighty-Six Thousand, Four Hundred Twenty-Eight Dollars (\$686,428.00) for the support of schools, the payment of salaries of school district officials and agents, and the payments of statutory obligations of the district. This article is exclusive of any other article on the warrant. (The school board recommends this article.)

Motion to accept article as written, seconded.

With no discussion, article passed unanimously

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Article 7

To see if the district will raise and appropriate up to One Hundred Thousand dollars (\$100,000.00) to be added to the previously established Tuition and Education Expendable Trust Fund, such amount to be funded from the year-end unassigned fund balance available on June 30, 2019. (The school board recommends this article).

Motion to accept article as written, motion made to amend, motion to amend was accepted and the following amended article was proposed by Joe Boutin:

To see if the district will raise and appropriate up to one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000.00) to be added to the previously established Tuition and Education Expendable Trust Fund, such amount to be funded from the amount in excess of sixty thousand dollars (\$60,000.00), if any, in the year-end unassigned fund balance available on June 30, 2020.

Amended article was seconded and discussion ensued.

Bill Darcy explained that the proposed school budget would result in an increase in the Local school tax from \$15.18 to \$17.17 which would trigger an increase in the Town tax rate from \$17.48 to \$19.25. (Page 33 of the Town Report). By directing the first \$60,000.00 of any school surplus available after June 30, 2020 to reduce the amount needed to be raised for the proposed budget, the Town tax rate can potentially be held to \$17.75. If the surplus is indeed \$70,000.00, then the balance, \$10,000.00, will bring the Trust Fund up to \$98,000.00.

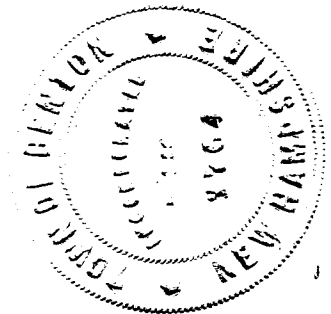
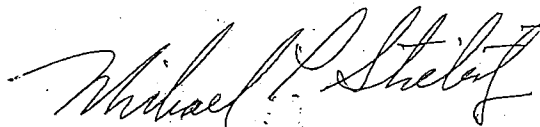
Laura Richardson, Chair of the Trustees of the Trust Funds, expressed her belief that increasing the amount in the fund is a worthwhile goal, considering the severe impact that unforeseen school expenditures can have on the Town's budget. She indicated that the current balance is \$88,000.00.

The article then was passed unanimously by voice vote.

Motion was made to close the meeting and the meeting adjourned at 7:16PM.

A true copy
Attest:

Michael P. Stiebitz



Michael P. Stiebitz - Benton School District Clerk - Benton, New Hampshire